

Dates to Remember

April 17-30, 2006  
Litter Sweep

April 22, 2006  
Earth Day

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# Litterature

Biannual Newsletter

Winter 2006



## Featured Group

### Buies Creek Lions Club Buies Creek

For most North Carolinians, Buies Creek is known as the home of Campbell University, also the home of the Buies Creek Lions Club (BCLC) and has been for the last 40 years. BCLC member Oscar Jones is



Jim Bales, Ellie and Wallace Betts display items found during the cleanup of U.S. 421.

responsible for the Lions Club becoming involved in the AAH program. As the story goes, while Oscar was on a trip, he saw a Lions Club doing a litter cleanup. He talked with the group and even helped with their cleanup.

Upon his return to Buies Creek, Oscar discussed the AAH program with the club. They felt AAH participation would fulfill part of their stewardship mission and submitted an application to adopt the section of U.S. 421 that runs through Buies Creek.

The adopted roadway is U.S. 421 from S.R. 1518 (Cedar Grove School Road) to S.R. 2084 (Leslie Campbell Avenue).

The BCLC has 23 members and is affiliated with the North Carolina Lions Foundation located in Sherrills Ford, just north of Charlotte.

Their main mission is to help their community in procuring assistance with vision care.

Currently, the BCLC helps sponsor the Lions Foundation Vision Van. The van is a 40-foot special purpose Thomasville bus modified to facilitate vision testing.

When the van is scheduled to visit Buies Creek, it takes 10 volunteers to process, administer and assist the optometrist in performing vision tests. The Vision Van is based at the foundation's Sherrills Ford location and their driver travels statewide.

The local Buies Creek testing sites have grown from the Campbell University site to include four area elementary schools.

The BCLC president is Philip Melvin. He came to reside in Buies Creek after retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

Currently Philip also teaches East Asian history at Campbell when not babysitting his grandchildren.

The BCLC Adopt-A-Highway group earned a 15-year star from the NCDOT this year. Their AAH group formed in Sept. 1990, and have recently renewed for another four years.

During the 2005 Fall Litter Sweep, the group had 16 volunteers participate and removed 16 bags of litter from their adopted stretch of highway.

BCLC AAH group removed 54 bags of litter in 2004, and from January through September of 2005, the group removed 48 bags of litter.

What is usually found during a cleanup? Phillip mentioned fast food sandwich wrappers, paper and Styrofoam cups as well as other

miscellaneous items.

The most unusual item removed was actually found during the 2005 Fall Litter Sweep. It was a lost purse with credit cards. It was turned in to Campbell's security office, and the owner claimed it.

Unfortunately, the BCLC AAH group did not think about submitting it to the Litter Sweep Unusual Litter Contest. It may have earned the group the top prize of \$250.

When a cleanup is completed, the group gathers at the local fire station where the members enjoy refreshments and lunch provided by the ladies of the BCLC.



Gilda Blackmon and Dorthea Gilbert proudly display the BCLC's 15-year service star. The star was affixed to the club's road markers on U.S. 421.

Other BCLC activities include a fall pancake breakfast and in the spring a fish fry.

The Office of Beautification Program feels that the BCLC lives up to its motto "We Serve." We thank the group for participating in the AAH program for 15 consecutive years and wish it many years of success in serving the Buies Creek community.



NC AAH Groups Support 2005 Fall Litter Sweep  
More Than 2.2 Million Pounds of Litter Picked Up

NCDOT employees, thousands of statewide volunteers and Department of Correction inmates took to the roadsides during the 2005 Fall Litter Sweep. Volunteers included Adopt-A-Highway groups, garden clubs, civic groups and other community organizations.

More than two million pounds of roadside litter filled nearly 150,000 bags statewide during the Fall Litter Sweep – the last two weeks of September.

The AAH group volunteers collected 36 percent of the litter cleanup amounts reported. This is one percent higher than the AAH 2004 Fall Litter Sweep results.

Both Hurricane Ophelia and Tropical Storm Tammy affected litter removal on roadways in many parts of Eastern North Carolina. However, the overall 2005 Fall Litter Sweep results kept pace with the successful 2004 Fall Litter Sweep results.

Below are the quantities of bags filled by the various participants during the 2005 Fall Litter Sweep.

- 21,056 bags filled by NCDOT crews
- 56,143 bags filled by DOC inmate crews
- 18,100 bags filled by Community Service Work Program participants
- 53,815 bags filled by AAH and Litter Sweep volunteers

Most Unusual Litter Contest Winners

Entries in the Litter Sweep “Most Unusual Litter” Contest once again confirmed that North Carolina is faced with a wide variety of roadside trash. Winning unusual items during the 2005 Fall Litter Sweep included a pistol with a holster, a “thingamajig” and a toilet seat extension. Winners and photos can be viewed by visiting the Office of Beautification Programs at [www.ncdot.org/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.org/~beautification) and clicking on the Litter Sweep link.



1st place winner  
Melvin Williamson / Pistol with Holster  
Tarheel Challenge Academy, Salemburg



2nd place winner  
Liz Goodman / “Thingamajig”  
J&S Orchard, Salsibury  
(Know what this is? E-mail us and let us know.)



3rd place winner  
Lorrie Erskine / Toilet Seat Extension  
Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Club, Gerton

AAH Safety Tips

- Always check out and put up “Litter Pickup in Progress” caution signs before cleaning your highway. Caution signs are available from your local NCDOT maintenance yard and should be returned after your cleanup.
- Always work facing traffic. Appoint someone to monitor oncoming traffic and insure volunteers stay alert.
- Take breaks -- and drink bottled water to keep your body hydrated.
- Do not pick up litter in the road; stay at least 5 feet from the road’s edge.
- Do not pick up litter on medians, bridges or overpasses -- or in construction areas or tunnels.
- Do not pick up hazardous materials. Never touch any hazardous material and do not open bottles with liquid in them.
- Notify NCDOT of the exact location of any hazardous item you encounter and ask for the item to be picked up. If needed for identification and location, mark the area with an orange bag.



Stormwater Facts

Q. How can I prevent stormwater pollution?

A. You can prevent stormwater pollution by:

- Removing litter from storm drains
- Keeping the family car tuned
  - Recycling motor oil
  - Checking for leaks
- Composting yard clippings
- Cleaning up after pets

AAH Coordinator Profile

Renee Carter  
Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator  
By George Kapetanakis (GK)

AAH Coordinator Profile  
Renee Carter (RC)  
Title: Processing Assistant III  
Division: 6  
Counties: Cumberland and Harnett  
Location: Fayetteville  
Years as AAH Coordinator: 11



Renee Carter came to the N.C. Department of Transportation in February of 1994 after leaving a position with an accounting firm. As a Processing Assistant III, Renee is involved in many of the day-to-day operations that keep many activities on track in Cumberland and Harnett counties.

Like the other AAH Coordinators, Renee also has many other responsibilities. For example, she ensures that invoices are properly processed to be paid. Sounds simple, but there is a lot of detail work which includes verifying that invoices match specific work tickets, entering the information correctly into the system and scanning the invoices.

Renee also administers permits for those transporting loads which are wider, taller and heavier than standard. Most permits issued are for moving a house. There are also driveway permits for access to roadways into businesses and subdivisions. She’s also involved in the requisition of rental equipment, concrete, asphalt aggregate and other supplies on an ongoing basis.

In her spare time, Renee is involved in other civic activities. During the last five years, she has participated in the annual American Heart Association Walk. She raised \$795 for the association from the walk held in October 2005.

Here are some of the questions and answers from our recent discussion:

GK: Renee, can you give us a brief

description of the Adopt-A-Highway groups that you administer in Cumberland and Harnett counties?

RC: Currently, I oversee 32 groups in Cumberland County and 37 groups in Harnett County. Of these, there are 16 groups in Cumberland that recycle, while 14 groups recycle in Harnett. Last year, these volunteers removed more than 150,000 pounds of trash from 130 miles of adopted roadsides and 4,000 pounds were recycled.

The groups are comprised of a wide variety of volunteers. Many are from large companies, church groups, individuals in memory of, hunting clubs and military groups to name a few.

GK: What seems to be your biggest challenge?

RC: My biggest challenge is being able to communicate with all the groups. I would like to be able to get more groups involved – like several local towns do. They promote to get volunteers to assist in roadside litter cleanups.

GK: What else can you say about the AAH groups in your area?

RC: What I appreciate about the groups I represent is the number of groups who do a great job in reporting their cleanups through the AAH hotline. It’s not just the requirement that each group participate in four cleanups per year, it’s also the details they submit through the hotline that simplifies the

contract renewal process. Reporting cleanups helps me better forecast the amount of supplies needed for the coming year and gives the department a better understanding of the littering that AAH program volunteers face. So, I really would like to thank them for doing a good job.

GK: Renee, what is the most unusual litter found in your area?

RC: It’s interesting that I don’t recall anyone calling in to report something unusual. I sure hope the groups are participating in the Litter Sweep’s Unusual Litter Contest. I can tell you that there is some dumping going on and you can find most anything from furniture to appliances thrown along the roadside by folks who just refuse to take it to the dump. It’s good to note that our sheriffs are active in investigating illegal dumpsites.

Renee, the NCDOT and the Office of Beautification Programs congratulates you on your many years of dedicated service to the NCDOT, the AAH program and groups.

We also want to thank all of the AAH groups in Cumberland and Harnett counties for keeping their part of North Carolina roadsides clean, green and safe for everyone to enjoy.

357 Adopt-A-Highway groups attain 10- and 15-year status.

If your AAH group began in 1990 or 1995, please accept our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your group’s commitment and dedication.

The 15-year groups receive a 15-year star to be placed on their signs to indicate their consecutive years of participation. The 10-year groups receive a special plaque and a 10-year star.

Our appreciation also goes to all of the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who have maintained their adopted roadsides since 1988.